



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Arizona's Agency for Human Services – Arizona Department of Economic Security

Presentation to the House Reform & Human Services Committee

January 17, 2013

Mission and Background

The Arizona Department of Economic Security promotes the safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children, adults, and families.

DES was established in 1972 by consolidating multiple state agencies to provide an integrated approach to human services.



Department Major Programs and Services

- Child Welfare
- Basic Needs Benefits and Assistance
- Employment & Rehabilitation Services
- Developmental Disabilities
- Aging and Adult Services
- Community Services
- Child Support Enforcement



Child Welfare



Child Welfare

Child Protective Services (CPS) Mission:

To protect children by investigating allegations of abuse and neglect, promoting the well-being of the child in a permanent home and coordinating services to strengthen the family and to prevent, intervene in and treat abuse and neglect of children.

- Toll-free 24-hour hotline
 - Over 40,000 reports in FY 2012 and 34,900 in FY 2011
 - Over 100,000 calls to the hotline in FY 2012



Child Welfare

Out-of-Home Placements

- Kinship foster homes
- In family foster care
- In a group home or in a residential treatment facility

As of October 2012, there were 14,400 children in out-of-home care

- 6,000 in licensed foster care
- 2,100 in congregate care
- 5,400 in unlicensed foster care
- 900 in independent living and other placements



Child Welfare

Family Foster Care

- Family Foster Homes
 - Unlicensed/Kinship Foster Homes
 - Receiving Foster Homes
- \$670 per month for fostering a child
 - Congregate care settings, group homes, and residential treatment facilities are utilized when family-like settings are not available.



Child Welfare

Children Support Services

- Provided to families while the child remains in the home or if the child has been removed
- Services include:
 - Reunification Services
 - Foster Home Recruitment and Management
 - Transportation
 - Parenting Skills Training
 - Counseling
 - Domestic Violence Intervention and/or Education
 - Home Management Skills
 - Development of Linkages to Community Resources



Child Welfare

Adoption Services

- Provides a permanent placement for children
- A monthly subsidy is provided for children with special needs who otherwise might not be adopted
- Services include:
 - Medical, dental and mental health subsidy
 - Monthly maintenance subsidy
 - Reimbursement of nonrecurring adoption expenses



Child Welfare

Permanent Guardianship

- Does not sever parental rights
- Enhances permanency options for current foster children
- Financial subsidy available for qualifying families
 - Intended to be a partial reimbursement for expenses



Child Welfare

Independent Living Services and Support

- Assists young adults successfully transition into their communities and become self-sufficient
- Services include:
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Training
 - Housing
 - Physical and mental health
 - Financial support



Basic Needs Benefits and Assistance



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Provides food to low-income families with children and vulnerable adults
- Helps to minimize the risk that Arizona's children will experience developmental delays and medical issues as a result of poor nutrition
- Joint nutrition efforts with the Women, Infant and Children program and the Free or Reduced Lunch program
- In December 2012, 1,124,700 recipients received an average \$287 per month
 - Average household size is 2.3 persons
 - 96 percent increase in recipients since December 2007



Cash Assistance

- Financial benefit payments to those individuals
 - In Arizona, countable income may not exceed 36 percent of the 1992 federal poverty level (\$347 for a family of three).
- Currently the lifetime benefit limit in Arizona is 24 months
 - In fiscal year 2011, benefit limit was reduced from 60 months to 36 months
 - In fiscal year 2012, benefit limit was reduced from 36 months to 24 months
- Arizona's monthly maximum benefit for a family of three is \$278.



Medicaid Eligibility

- DES determines eligibility for Medical Assistance in partnership with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).
- Arizonans' coverage may include doctor visits, physical exams, immunizations, prenatal care, hospital care, and prescriptions.



Employment & Rehabilitation Services



Unemployment Insurance

- Benefits to individuals who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own
- Cash benefits until they find new employment as long as the individual meets certain on-going criteria such as maintaining job search activities
- Arizona's benefit is a maximum of \$240 per week.
- Currently the regular AZ maximum benefit period is 26 weeks.
- Federal extensions to the benefit period expire at the end of calendar year 2013; the current federal extension is 37 weeks for a total of 63 weeks of benefits.



Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (Jobs)

- Mandatory employment and training program for work-eligible individuals in households receiving Cash Assistance
- Work-related activities:
 - Improve employability skills
 - Remove barriers to employment by offering supportive and specialized services
- Services may include:
 - Assistance with transportation
 - Clothing, tools, etc.
 - Shelter and utility expenses



Child Care

- To assist families with child care costs who are:
 - Employed or participating in employment and specific education and training activities with incomes below 165% of the federal poverty level or involved in the child welfare system
- Families that receive child care assistance include:
 - Child Protective Services Related
 - Cash Assistance-Related
 - Transitional Child Care
 - Low-Income Working
- In December 2012:
 - There were 26,000 children served
 - Over 7,000 children were on the waiting list



Workforce Investment

- Serves the unemployed population of Arizona with programs for 3 categories of unemployed workers: adult, dislocated worker, and youth.
- Funding is passed through to 17 Local Workforce Investment Areas
 - Counties
 - Cities of Phoenix and Tucson
 - Tribes
- Funding is allocated based on population formulas dictated in State Statute



Workforce Investment

- Services include:
 - Tutoring, training and instruction for completion of secondary school
 - Mentoring
 - Work experience (internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing)
 - Occupational skills training
 - Leadership development
 - Supportive services
 - Guidance counseling



Veterans' Employment

Local Veterans' Employment Representative Program

- Outreach to veterans transitioning out of military service
- Facilitate employment workshops: resume writing, interviewing techniques and job search activities
- Job match the veterans to employers

Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program

- Outreach and offer assistance to disabled and other veterans
- Promoting community and employer support for employment
- Training opportunities including apprenticeship and on-the-job training



Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation

- Any individual reporting a disability may apply
- Services include:
 - Vocational guidance and counseling
 - Job training
 - Work site evaluation
 - Job placement services
 - Rehabilitation technology services and devices
 - Tuition payments



Rehabilitation

Independent Living Rehabilitation

- Individuals with significant disabilities
- Services include:
 - Self care
 - Activities of daily living: driving, using public transportation, shopping, housekeeping, and communicating



Developmental Disabilities



Development Disabilities

Arizona Long-Term Care System (ALTCS)

- Arizonans who both meet the financial eligibility requirements and have developmental disabilities
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Epilepsy
 - Autism
 - A cognitive disability
- State-only Developmental Disabilities program provides limited services for individuals not meeting the criteria for ALTCS
- Goal is to maximize the independence
- 89 percent of the Division's consumers live independently or with their families
 - Highest rate in the nation
- Recent annual growth in ALTCS members is about 4 percent



Early Intervention Program

- For children between birth to three years old who have developmental delays
- Research indicates:
 - Development in the early years establishes a critical foundation for a child's future success in school, relationships, employment and other life pursuits
 - Children learn in the context of their relationships, activities, routines, and events of everyday life



Aging and Adult Services



Aging and Adult Services

Adult Protective Services

- Investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable and incapacitated adults
- Provides a telephone hotline and a 24-hour online reporting tool
- Offers appropriate interventions and services



Aging and Adult Services

Independent Living Support Services, Senior Community Services and Employment

- Services include:
 - Health benefits counseling
 - Respite care
 - In-Home health aide, housekeeping and personal care
 - Home-delivered meals
 - Home nursing
 - Legal assistance
 - Employment services



Community Services



Community Services

Domestic Violence

- Coordinates services to domestic violence victims and their children
- Works with the statewide Arizona Domestic Violence Coalition
- Services include:
 - Crisis hotline
 - Emergency and transitional shelters
 - Counseling
 - Case management
 - Other services: transportation, child care, legal advocacy and referrals to community programs



Community Services

Coordinated Homeless Services

- Plans and coordinates activities with community-based organizations and local governments
- Services include:
 - Emergency shelter and transitional housing
 - Case management and outreach
 - Other services: transportation, child care, legal advocacy and referrals to community programs



Community Services

Hunger Services

- Families that do not qualify for Nutrition Assistance or need one-time assistance with food
- Services include:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Outreach
 - Dissemination of information on where to obtain food
 - Food bank coordination and distribution



Community Services

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Assistance to pay heating/cooling bills, minimize crises, and make energy costs more affordable for low-income families
- Assistance is available to a family one time per 12 month period
- High priority is granted to elderly, disabled and young children

Eviction Prevention

- May assist families to retain existing rental housing or provide assistance to move into rental housing
- Qualifying families earning below 50% of the Area Median Income



Child Support Enforcement



Child Support Enforcement

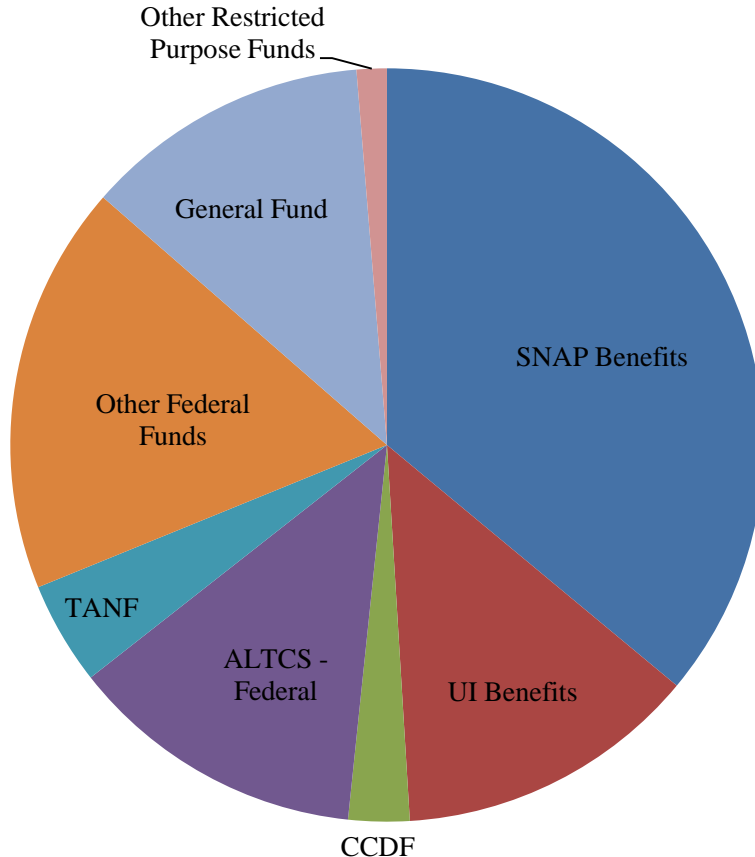
- Provides assistance to custodial parents:
 - Establishing paternity
 - Order establishment
 - Establishing medical support
 - Enforcement actions such as withholding, reporting, or criminal actions
- Program is designed to assist custodial parents with identifying financial resources from non-custodial parents in order to provide for children and keep the family off other government assistance
- Persons requesting assistance may be a custodial parent, a caretaker or caretaker relative with physical custody of a child, an alleged father wanting to establish paternity, or a non-custodial parent
- \$703 million in total collections in fiscal year 2012



DES Budget and Financial Information



Fiscal Year 2013 Expenditures by Type/Fund Source



Type	Amount (thousands)	% of Total
SNAP Benefits	\$1,795,200.0	36.0%
UI Benefits	\$647,919.4	13.0%
ALTCS - Federal	\$635,551.4	12.8%
General Fund	\$612,296.2	12.3%
Other Federal Funds	\$875,864.2	17.6%
TANF Block Grant	\$220,775.8	4.4%
CCDF	\$130,567.5	2.6%
Other Restricted Purpose Funds	\$64,467.3	1.3%
Total	\$4,982,641.8	100%





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Questions?